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FACTS ABOUT GREENWOOD HOMESTEADS

Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration

OFFICIAL NAME: Greenwood Homesteads

LOCATION: In Jefferson County, north-central Alabama, 5 miles from the industrial city of Bessemer and 18 miles from Birmingham.

HISTORY OF PROJECT: Initiated by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior, Greenwood Homesteads was transferred to the Resettlement Administration by Executive Order, May 15, 1935. Construction was started in January, 1936.

PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This subsistence homestead community project was undertaken to help low-income families, dependent upon part-time or full-time employment in the industrial areas surrounding Birmingham, to increase their real income by raising food needs at home. Better housing and an opportunity to improve their living standards is being given 83 selected families.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Homestead unit tracts on this 402-acre project range from 3 to 10 acres. The average unit has 3 acres. The land was under cultivation prior to its purchase and produced fine crops of cotton, corn, fruit, and vegetables. Homesteaders are cultivating garden crops, raising chickens, and keeping a dairy cow. Some of the families living on the larger units are also raising pigs.

A community center is being constructed and a community store is planned.

HOUSE DESCRIPTION: The 83 brick-veneer houses are of 4, 5, and 6 rooms. Each homestead unit has a combination garage, barn, chicken house, and woodshed.

A community water system with a 50,000 gallon storage tank has been completed. Sewage is disposed of by individual septic tanks with tile disposal field. Electricity is furnished by a private utility, and telephone service is available.

Walks, driveways, roads, bridges, and culverts have been built.

HOMESTEADERS: The average income of the project families is $1,400 a year. A study of family and social data is pending.